ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

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Arriva East Herts & Essex Leyland Olympian 5318 MUH281X Captured at Lakeside on former Town & Country travel Route 324 . It's one of three Olympians transferred from Arriva Southend (Photo taken by Peter Snell)

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Essex Bus News

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. Please enclose a s.a.e. if you would like a reply. The contact addresses are listed on the front cover.

Membership and Subscription Information

A one-year membership includes 12 consecutive issues of Essex Bus Magazine and runs from either January or July. Current rates are £13.50 First class £12.50 Second class postage.
Membership applications and any enquiries about your membership should be addressed to Derek Stebbing.

Timetable Subscription Service

The groups Timetable subscription service is an excellent way to ensure that you've always got the latest timetables for Essex bus services. Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and monthly updates plus copies of Thurrock councils timetable book.
To join the timetable subscription service, please contact Derek Stebbing.

Photo Sales

A very large selection of photos of vehicles is available for you to purchase. It is not practical to produce a list because of the vast quantities involved but please write to Peter Snell if you a have a particular interest. We have photos of most operators in Essex both past and present.

Members Adverts and Appeals

As a free service we will publish members for sales, wants and appeals for information. Publication will be subject to space and restricted to bus and transport related items. Please send your advert to the managing Editor.
Members responding to adverts should deal direct with the advertiser, as the group is not involved in any of them.

Contributions and Closing Dates

Thank you to the following for there help this issue – Arriva Southend , Arriva East Herts & Essex ,Arriva Colchester , First Essex Buses , Essex county council, PSV circle , LOTS , G. Toon, R. Whitley ,G. Bessey , G. Perkins , Richard Delahoy , Steven R , Mr . D.R McGregor ,Hedingham Omnibuses , Evening Echo .

Contributions for Februarys issue of Essex Bus News to Sub-editors by 5th February and to the Managing editor by 9th February.

The February magazine is due for posting on 21 February.

January 2001 Editorial

New Look for the New Year

Welcome to the first issue of 2001! We've given Essex Bus News a make over with the aim of making it easier to read and I hope that you enjoy the results.

There are some new features this month and plenty more exciting developments Planned for the year ahead, so make sure that you've renewed your subscription if it's expired.

The traditional New Year crop of service changes has been implemented as the larger operator's struggle with the difficulty of recruiting staff. It's a sad fact that bus driving is no longer seen as a long term career by many. Indeed, having an interest in transport is not viewed by society as being 'cool', which is a great shame as I'm sure you'll agree it's a fascinating industry. Let's hope that there's a brighter future!

We'll continue to do our best to bring you the latest news and features but don't forget that we need your help. Your observations, photos and news snippets are essential – Don't leave it to someone else! We're also looking for original articles on operators, routes or anything else related to buses in Essex past or present.

It's your magazine so let's make Essex Bus news an even better read and why not get you friends or colleagues to join us?

Members Report Line

We now have an email address for your contributions to the magazine. It's intended that this is used as a 'postbox' for the group with the mail going to the relevant sub-editor. The email address is essexbusnews@hotmail.com. It'll be checked regularly. If you're not on the net, you can still write to us of course!

Rochford Meetings

The next group meeting is on Tuesday 13th February at the Freight house in Rochford at 8 PM. There'll be a talk and slide show by Brian Smith from Southend operator Linkfast group, otherwise know as S&M coaches and Castle Point Bus Company .
Other meetings in the first part of the year are on March 13th – group AGM and a slide show from Alan Osborne and another meeting on 10th April.

Focus of the Month

It's issue 441 of Essex Bus News so the focus of the month is.... FWC441H.
Eastern National Bristol RELL6G ECW B53F, Fleet number 1518,
Delivered in December '69 and withdrawn in 1982. It was sold it Goodwin (Dealer), Carlton in June '82.

Inside This Months Essex Bus News

Essex Timetables in 2000 - Ian Taylor casts his eyes over a year of timetables from the many of the counties smaller operators – Page 20

Essex Buses Go Worldwide – Where to surf for the news ,features & photos – Page 19

Thamesway 10 Years Ago - Mini buses take on Southend Transport – Page 24

First Eastern National &

First Thamesway – page 8

First Airport Bus & Coach – Page 5

Arriva southend - Page 12

Arriva East Herts & Essex –Page 13

Other Operators -Page 16

North Essex Operators - Page 15

Bus Boost For Southend

Funding worth £14.5 million has been secured for the Southend on Sea A13 passenger transport corridor. The package of measures to address congestion on the A13, A127/A1159 was given the green light in the first instalment of local transport plan cash.
The scheme includes Bus infrastructure improvements; Bus priority and real time travel information at bus stops.

FIRST GROUP NEWS

The first of the Metro bus networks commenced operation in Leicester in September and Southampton in October. Unlike the Overground concept, all commercial services are included Publicity including colour coding of routes and specific branding on buses are used.
The group came under fire in the South West recently, when a large number of services in Devon, Cornwall and rural areas near Bristol were withdrawn. The high cost of replacing life expired buses (VR's and Nationals), appears to be the reason.
The Croydon Tramlink system, in which First is a major player is proving highly popular. Some 310,000 passengers a week are being carried. This is well ahead of the projected use.
Six month interim results to 30th September have been announced. Overall operating profits were up 29% to £94.2m. Passenger numbers on buses were up 0.5%, while on trains they were up 7.5%. Operating profit of the UK Bus Division fell from £50.8m to £47.4m. The Overground concept in Glasgow, Bradford and Sheffield has given a 5% increase in passengers.
Construction work has commenced in Bradford of a £7m quality bus initiative. This will include sections of guided busways.
A 15 metre Mercedes Citaro City Bus, has toured a number of group companies. It carries a German registration MA-YB-995 as it cannot be registered in the UK, it's illegal!
Peter Hendy, a senior manager in London, with much experience of operations in London, has left the group to take up the position of Director, Bus and River Services for TFL. No doubt London's new mayor, will be delighted to have him on board!

EASTERN NATIONAL

ACQUIRED VEHICLES

I thought that I had published details of all the ex First Leeds Darts, but have obviously failed to do so. My apologies, details are as follows

2901-12 M219-21/450/223-30 VWW Dennis Dart 9.8SDL Alexander B40F 1995

Chassis numbers are 3054/2310-12/14/15/26-30/43/44, body numbers are AM124/9433/1-12.
They were acquired in 8/00 2901; 9/00 2902-4/10; 10/00 2905-09/11/12
2912 passed to First Eastern Counties, without being operated.
With regard to Olympian/ECW JTY 370X, this was only here on loan and appears to have gone.
Transferred from Thamesway is Volvo/Plaxton 601 (N601 APU) this has moved to Airport Buses. In exchange Volvo/Plaxton 35 (4750 WY) has gone to Basildon.

Also acquired from Isle of Man Tansport in 12/00 was:-

5011 G473 DHF Leyland Lynx LX112L10ZR1R B51F 1990

Chassis number is LX1326. It remains in IoM livery and is for use on Phoenix Schools Travel duties. The batch 5007-10 has been left empty, in case more Olympians are acquired.
This vehicle was new to Halton, Widnes with the same registration. It was registered MAN 96N, while on the Isle of Man.
To follow on the Phoenix saga, all of 5000-06/11 are owned by Phoenix School Travel and are leased by Essex Buses from them. While comment has been passed that these vehicles should not be shown as acquired by Eastern National, the vast majority of the fleet is leased anyway, so in strict terms and applying this logic, the Eastern National fleetlist would be very small indeed!

VEHICLES ON LOAN

Noted in use from Colchester during December and early January, were First Capital Volvo B6/Alexander 672 and 674 (L672/4 RMD). These have been reported as being numbered 6721 and 6741.
6741 operated on services 64/A, as the route number was carried on paper stuck in the blind box.

ALLOCATIONS

By 31.12.00. 35 AB-Tway; 433/34 AB-CF; 601 Tway-AB; 5011 Acqd-CF;

Corrections to last month is that 1850 is at CR not CF, while 3222 not 322 was withdrawn.
3222 suffered severe accident damage near Peldon.
A large number of re-allocations will take place over the weekend of 6/7 January as a result of service revisions. Details next month.

SERVICES

5/6 Revised to operate from Holland-on-Sea to Flatford Drive from 8.1.01.
7/8 Withdrawn between Clacton and Jaywick with effect from 8.1.01.
10/11 NEW SERVICE. Gorse Lane to Jaywick via Clacton to replace 7/8 from 8.1.01.
16 Withdrawn after operation on 6.1.01.
31A Withdrawn after operation on 6.1.01
33 Withdrawn between Stansted Airport and Bishops Stortford from 8.1.01.
38 Revised route and timetable introduced from 9.10.00.
39 Revised route and timetable introduced from 9.10.00.
48 Revised timetable introduced from 8.1.01.
54 Revised timetable introduced from 8.1.01
56 Revised timetable introduced from 8.1.01
59 Revised timetable introduced from 8.1.01
67 Revised timetable introduced from 8.1.01
69 Schools service West Bergholt to Gilberd School via Mile End Road. Introduced from 9.10.00.
70 Revised route and timetable introduced from 8.1.01
73 Operation of Brentwood Town Sevice (Bishops Hall Est - Warley) taken over from Thamesway from 8.1.01. using Dennis Darts.
74 Revised timetable introduced from 8.1.01
75 Revised route and timetable introduced from 8.1.01
76 Minor timetable revisions from 8.1.01.
77 Revised route and timetable introduced from 8.1.01
78 Minor timetable revision introduced from 8.1.01
87 Withdrawn after operation on 5.1.01. Passed to Arriva Colchester under contract to ECC.
88 Revised route and timetable introduced from 8.1.01
93 Withdrawn after 6.1.01. Replaced by Arriva Colchester 194 (Colchester to East Bergholt) and First Eastern Counties 93 (Ipswich to East Bergholt)
103/4 Minor timetable revisions from 8.1.01.
132/3 Passed to Arriva Colchester from 21.8.00. - Apologies for not having included it here before
193 Revised route and timetable from 22.9.00.
301 Revised route and timetable from 14.11.00.
308/9 Revised timetable introduced with effect from 8.1.01.
351 Minor timetable revisions from 8.1.01

Diamond service had a revised timetable from 9.10.00.
The Stansted to Colchester service had a revised timetable introduced from 15.1.01.
Service 90 recently taken over from Hedingham and under contract to Essex County Council, is normally operated by a Dennis Dart/Alexander of the ex First Leeds batch.
Colchester Butt Road Park & Ride service C2 was taken over from Hedingham on 9.12.00.

GENERAL

Due to resurfacing at the Maldon outstation during the weekend of 16.12.00, vehicles were parked in the adjacent yard.

REPAINTS

Recent repaints into Eastern National yellow/green skirt are:-

1431 1508 2821 2901 2902 2903 2909 2910 2911

To correct EBN436, 915 was not repainted in EN livery. This vehicle is in the Thamesway fleet. 4017 was repainted in 5/00, but this has not been recorded here before.

Repainted into First corporate livery for older vehicles, grey with blue skirt and blue and pink stripe above the windows. There are no willow leaves or *f* logo and the pink is a different shade:- 1509

For good measure, 398 (K398 GHJ) has been repainted in overall red and carries the registration AIR1 for airside work at Stansted Airport.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

7.12.00	CR1507 on service 93 (normally Dart)
22.12.00	Airport Buses 2802 on service 352 (BE/CF operated route)
23.12.00	BE 3219 on service 352 (normally only used on schools services)

Leyland National 1850 continued in use from Colchester during December. On the 8th it was even in Ipswich on service 93.

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflet for service 48 dated 4.9.00; 70/A dated 4.9.00; 333 dated 4.9.00

INITIAL DISPOSALS

108 (P751 HTW)	European Overland,-?-, 10/00
114 (DSU 733)	Hardwick (dealer), Carlton, 12/00
216 (BCL 216T)	Hardwick (dealer), Carlton, 12/00
352 (H363 LJN)	First Eastern Counties, 11/00
383 (H394 OHK)	First Eastern Counties, 11/00
387 (H397 OHK)	First Eastern Counties, 11/00
1899 (DAR 121T)	Hardwick (dealer), Carlton, 12/00
2601 (H601 OVW)	First Eastern Counties, 11/00
2912 (M230 VWW)	First Eastern Counties, 11/00
9018 (D228 PPU)	Hardwick (dealer), Carlton, 11/00

SERVICE VEHICLES

Noted at the New Writtle Street driver training yard in December was VAZ 8024 (A717 GJA) a Leyland Royal Tiger/Roe Doyen. It is thought to be on loan from Stephenson (dealer), Rochford for driver training.
Also here was Leyland National 1924 (JHJ 150V) complete with 'L' plates.

First Thamesway

FLEET CHANGES

Acquired
35 (4750 WY) Volvo/Plaxton from First Airport Bus & Coach (now at Basildon for Green Line services)
803/4 (F803/4 RHK) re-acquired from First Capital for spares only (seen at Basildon 7.12.00)
Disposals
601 (N601APU) to First Airport Bus & Coach 12/00
312 (H313LJN) to Hardwick (dealer) for scrap 10/00
9305 (B42AAF) to private owner, Basildon 10/00

Repaints
10/00 806, 401, 410, 407, 409 *11/00* 406, 404, 402 *12/00* 405, 403, 408

2606 is now Essex Buses (presumably joint EN/Thamesway) mobile recruitment office, painted yellow with seats facing back to a screen.
Former 386 (publicity vehicle) is now numbered 9028 and painted predominantly white, with red band and lettering. It has orange flashing roof lights and retains its rear window.

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Further to EBN440, as well as being the spare 'Mobility Bus', Dennis Dart/Marshall 855 (S979JLM) was in use on service 151 at least 22.11.00 and 28.11.00, the 751 on 5.1.01 and has been seen on service 100. It is also thought that 851-4 were used in normal service from Basildon early in their lives - if anyone has records, please let us know.

The Brentwood local double-deck turns ended on 5.1.01, the last duty on the 81/82 being performed by Olympian 4026 (VR 3109 the previous day). Other than occasional use on the 151, double-deckers in the Brentwood area will be restricted to schools contracts with the service revisions on 8.1.01, and with these changes there will no longer be a bus service clockwise around Woodland Avenue or Hutton Drive (40 years after the 264 was introduced). 3109 ran out of and back into Brentwood on 3.1.01 (just before the new School term) showing '820', having been seen in Billericay earlier showing '111' (an obscure short Basildon local with one trip each way, now withdrawn).

Some workings on LT contract route 193 (Romford – County Park) are being operated from Basildon garage with 9029 as a drivers shuttle

Hadleigh minibuses on 'big bus' workings have included 313 (service 2) and 310 (service 21) on 8.12.00, 313 on the 20 (13.12.00) and 325 on the 07.30 service 21 from Southend (3.1.01).

Other previously unrecorded (and undated) VR workings have been one (probably 3113, possibly 3069) on 09.16 service 3 to Canvey and 3109 on service 100, while on 13.12.00 3113 was seen on service 20 - presumed to be the 08.32 from Hullbridge. The 20 is the only Thamesway Southend area service still with a 10-minute interval peak hour service, and consequently sees 2-3 morning double-deck workings. A while ago the 06.45 and 07.25 from Hullbridge were double-deckers, with the 07.25 a mixture; has anybody taken note recently? Hadleigh Olympian 4005 was allocated to Service 20 all day on 03 .01. 01 .

SERVICE CHANGES

No services operated on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Years Day with normal service on Christmas Eve, Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st December. Saturday services ran on 27th-29th December with additional journeys on 3, 3B, 16, 27A, 77, 77A and 102.
Billericay service 256 reverted to Tuesday, Friday and Saturday only after 31.12.00 as Billericay Town Council reluctantly withdrew its subsidy to support Monday, Wednesday and Thursday operation. The council had contributed about £4,000 but despite positive support from locals to the idea, few passengers used the additional services.

Major revisions from 8 January 2001:

1	Two journeys diverted via Glebefields (as 1A)
2	Revised timetable Mon-Sat to improve reliability
15	Off peak Southend-Hadleigh journeys withdrawn
21D	Two journeys altered (07.14 from Benfleet now via Kents Hill Road as 21E)
22	Revised timetable Mon-Sat to improve reliability
25	Most journeys extended to/from Basildon Hospital, one other change (to 25C)
27	Slight alterations, 08.00 from Southend re-routed via Daws Heath to become 27B
73	(Pilgrim's Hatch - Warley) Transferred to First Eastern National with revised timetable
77	Extended to run Warley (Eagle Way), Brentwood Station, Brentwood BT (Mon-Fri only), Brentwood High Street, Shenfield Station, Hutton Drive, Wash Road, Woodlands Avenue, Shenfield Station and return as outwards.
77A	Extended to operate to/from Woodman Road and otherwise as 77
80	Withdrawn (Saturday Clintona ECC contract unaffected, 752 replaces on Mon-Fri)
81/82	Withdrawn
83	Withdrawn, replaced by short workings of 751 to Hutton Village
100	School variations withdrawn, replaced by contract buses
103	Billericay-Queen's Park circular withdrawn
111	Withdrawn
751	Reduced to (principally) hourly
752	New service Shenfield Station to Romford via Hanging Hill Lane (providing half-hourly service Shenfield/Brentwood to Romford)

Romford Garage Stays Open

Romford depot is to remain open, contrary to speculation elsewhere, providing vehicles and drivers for the 77/77A (but not the 752), some associated schools workings and the 193. The 73 is to be worked by Chelmsford. However, further loss of work will sadly involve the Village Link services 19/20/21/22 which are to be withdrawn after operation of the Ingatestone - Epping service 20 on Monday 22 January 2001. Because of limited passenger numbers, the County Council are quoted as saying that the average subsidy equates to an unacceptable £6-£8 per passenger.
Personal observation would suggest loadings to be very light (augmented by a handful of pensioners with unlimited passes) except in school holidays and half term, while the one or two day a week nature of this group of services has made them very difficult to promote in the same way as, for example, the 14/15 to West Hanningfield or the 16 to Wethersfield. There are no plans for any new Village Link services in the Brentwood/Ingatestone area, the existing routes having started on 22 February 1999 (a short history may follow when space permits). The local press mostly reported the news in a fairly balanced manner, although one local paper finishes an otherwise reasonable piece of reporting with the comment that "Arriva, which currently runs the 19 route, was unavailable for comment".

PUBLICITY MATERIAL

New Brentwood area timetable booklet covering 73, 77/77A, 151, 350/351 and 751/752 issued to coincide with major changes from 8.1.01, incorporating three maps and information on new fare zones (details not yet seen). The maps of course include only First Group services, but do give details of all Shenfield and Brentwood town centre bus stops.

Can You Help?

Can anyone please confirm the exact start date of the National Steam Car Co Chelmsford-Brentwood service (almost immediately numbered 10, later 30)?

Does anyone have photos of
(1) Any Eastern National vehicles in Hutton or Shenfield on the 252, 253 or 264, in service on the 263 or on the Chelmsford - Mill Green 30B/40A?
(2) VR's operating on service in the Brentwood area, especially SMS-H examples on the 351, BD's original pair 3040/1 and (much later) any in the original maroon/yellow Thamesway livery.
Please contact Chris Stewart, address on front cover - all photographic expenses reimbursed and copyright respected.

ARRIVA COLCHESTER

Vehicles

Into The Fleet - 2128 (N908ETM) 2131 (N911ETM) 2134 (N914ETM) and 2136 (N916ETM) Mercedes 709D / Plaxton Beaver. Transferred from Arriva the Shires . 2128 & 2136 arrived in corporate livery whilst 2131 & 2134 were in blue and yellow branded livery. 2131 was sent back to Watford for repainting in early January .They were previously used from Watford Garage on Elstree and Borehamwood local services . 2134 was used on ECC service 133 on 4/01

2320 (L614LVX) Mercedes 707D /Dormobile B25F came from sister company Arriva East Herts & Essex . This is likely to be a loan as it has a manual gearbox and around 25% of Arriva Colchester drivers hold automatic licences .

Loan - On the 9 & 10 December a Leyland Tiger / Plaxton Paramount 3500 II coach (530 MUR) was loaned from Leaside travel for a day trip to France .

Rail Replacements

New years eve & New years day - Colchester North – Colchester Town – All day contract using 5397, 5407/8 on New years eve and 5390 , 5397 ,5407 on New years day with 3430 a spare Bus at Thorpe Le Soken .

Fare Revision

New fares were introduced from 2nd January

Services Changes

Christmas and New year services – 23/24 Dec – normal services , 27-31 Dec – Saturday service and generally a Mon –Fri service on contract Routes.

On Boxing day and New years day only service 133 operated.

From 2/01 Service 133 Braintree – Stansted – Improved timetable .

Service 700 Colchester – Coggeshall has been renumbered 70 with an improved timtables. .

From 8/01 A new Essex county council contract commenced to operate some journeys on Service 59 (Chelmsford – Harlow) . On the same day Arriva Colchester also started a new contract on route 87 (Dedham – Colchester) and new commercial service 194 (Colchester – East burgholt) began .

ARRIVA SOUTHEND

VEHICLE ON HIRE 8/12--12/12
From Arriva The Shires
5094 (F644LMJ) Leyland Olympin Alexander H79F
This vehicle is fitted with a special CCTV system and was used for special surveillance..

VEHICLES TRASFERRED TO RESERVE FLEET 2086-2088 Mercedes 709D

By the time you read this edition of Essex Bus News it is expecected that the remaining Darts will have repainted to Arrin corporate livery 3394/6 (P263/4FPK).

Leyland Olympian 5415 (N705NPK) has received a rear end advert for The Old Rectory Nursing Home at Great Stambridge, Rochford 12/2000.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

9/12	4056	29
14/12	5419	721

DISPOSALS
Former Southend Transport (DMS) 315 (GHV15N) that has been operating for New York Apple Tours is now being dismatled for spares.
Leyland coach 523 (EBM439T) gone from Dobbins Ayr 8/2000

Xmas and New Year 2000/2001
Sunday Christmas Eve 24/12
Sunday service until 20-00hrs
Mon and Tues Christmas and Boxing Days 25-26/12
No service
Weds Thurs Fri 27-29/12
Saturday service
Sat 30/12
Normal Saturday service
Sunday 31/12
Normal Sunday service until 20-00hrs
New Years Day 1/2001
No service
Tues 2/2001
Normal services resumed

GREEN LINE SERVICE
Christmas Eve
Sunday service (last bus 15-00 to London and 18-55 to Southend)
Christmas and Boxing days
No service
Wed-Fri
Saturday service with additional journeys
710 06-10 Southend-London
17-19 London -Southend
operated by Arriva
720 06-09 Canvey-London
17-10 London-Canvey
operated by Thamesway
Saturday Normal service
Sunday As Christmas Eve

New years Day
No service
Tues
Normal service resumed

ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX

Allocations 12/00

Grays (GY)

Leyland Olympian	5072/80, 5373/81/84
MCW Metrobus	5254/56, 5349/53/68
Dennis Dart SLF/Pn	3387-90, 3400-3, 3421/23-29/31 (services 20, 370/373)
Dennis Dart/Pn	3373, 3404-14 (service 256)
Dennis Dart/Wright	3349/50/74/75
Dennis Dart/Carlyle	3092/96
National Greenway	3048, 3308/10
Leyland Swift	3335
Iveco 59-12	2334/46-48/59-64
Mercedes 709D	2310

Harlow (HA) including Debden

Leyland Olympian	5375/76/78/79
Volvo B6BLE/Wright	3250-7 (services 4 &500)
Dennis Lance/Wright	3376-78 (service 502)
Dennis Dart SLF/Pn	3230/1 (service 10)
Dennis Dart SLF/Ar	3461-69/71-79/81 (services W13, W14 & 397)
Dennis Dart/Pn	3356-64/68/69/71/72
Dennis Dart/Wright	3366/67
DAF/Ikarus	4335-37/39
DAF/Optare	3328/9
Leyland Lynx	3341-44/46/47
Iveco 59-12	2090-94/96-98, 2100, 2233/35/35, 2329/31/32/36-41/45/49-58
Mercedes 811D	2319/20
Mercedes 709D	2072
Mercedes 308D	1257 (service 1)

Note: Debden outstation has the 19 Dart SLF/Alexander together with a handful of Darts, Lynx & Ivecos

Ware (WE)

MCW Metrobus	5250-53/55/57/60/63/69, 5348/63/67/70 (service 310)
Dennis Dart SLF/Pn	3386 (service 331)
Dennis Dart SLF/Wt	3416-18/35/39/40 (services 331 & 395)
Dennis Dart/Pn	3355/85
Dennis Dart/Wright	3365
DAF/Plaxton	3441-49 (service 724)
Mercedes 810D "Vario"	2186-90, 2370-82

Withdrawn (w)

MCW Metrobus	5262, 5354
Leyland Lynx	3064

Allocation changes subsequent to 440

2114 (N918 ETM): returned to Arriva the Shires by 12/00

3064 (E969 PME): withdrawn at Harlow - chassis u/s; engine removed

3335 (H350 PNO): returned to fleet at Grays from Arriva Colchester

5262 (KYV 782X): being stripped for spares at Arriva Colchester

Note 3192 (R192 RBM), 3244 (M844 DDS) & 4335 (J 56 GCX) were on short trem loan only and have now returned to their respective depots, (Luton, Hemel Hempstead & Harlow)

Liveries

to Arriva corporate by 12/00 - 3363/86, 3401/2.

It is thought that the position at 12/00 was as follows but your Sub-Editor would welcome comments/corrections.

Arriva Corporate: 2072/90-4/5-8, 2100/86-90, 2233/5/6, 2310/34/7/9/45/7/8/54/6/9-61/3/4/73/6/8-82, 3064, 3230/1/50-7, 3308/35/41-4/6/7/52-46-9/61-5/8-72/4/5/6-8/85-90, 3400-2/12/6-8/31/5/9/40/61-9/71-9/81, 4335-7/9, 5072/80, 5368/73/5/6/81/4
Arriva Outer London: 5250-3/5/7/60/9, 5348/63/7/70
Allover advertisement: 1257, 2372, 5263
County Bus dark green/cream: 2319/20/29/31-3/6/8/40/1/6/9-53/55/7/8/62/70/1/4/5/7, 3328/9/49/50/5/60/6/7/73, 3404-11/3/4/21/3-9, 5378/9
Greenline: 3441-9
Various: 3048/92/6, 3310, 3403, 5254/6/62, 5349/53/4

ARRIVA EAST HERTS AND ESSEX SERVICE REVISIONS

2/3 Harlow and Staple Tye. Off peak and Saturday service reduced to every 20 minutes, from 23.12.00.

4 Harlow and Latton Bush. Off peak and Saturday service reduced to every 12 minutes, from 23.12.00.

5 Little Pardon and Potter Street. Bus Station to Potter Street short workings withdrawn from 23.12.00.

17 Great Bardfield and Saffron Walden. ECC Tender surrendered. New operator from 23.12.00. unknown.

306 Wicken Bonhunt and Bishops Stortford. ECC Tender surrendered. New operator from 23.12.00. is London Transit.

317 Elsenham and Bishops Stortford. ECC Tender surrendered. New operator from 23.12.00. is London Transit.

324 Romford and Bluewater. Withdrawn between Hornchurch and Romford. Although due to start from 6.11.00. it appears that 14.11.00 was the first day as such.

348 Romford to Chadwell (M-S), Ockendon-Chadwell (Su). Revised route in Upminster, withdrawn off - peak Lakeside to Chadwell except evenings. Sundays revised to operate Lakeside to Chadwell only. Although due to start from 6.11.00. it appears that 14.11.00 was the first day as such.

383 Lakeside and Brentwood Road Est. Withdrawn on Saturday evenings (Thurrock DC contract) after 1920, still operates Monday-Friday evenings. With effect from 9.10.00

384 Grays and Brentwood Road Est. Sunday evening service withdrawn after operation on 8.10.00.

392 Old Harlow and Hoddesdon. 0815 Churchgate Street to Harlow withdrawn after 22.12.00

503 Old Harlow to Loughton. Withdrawn after operation on 22.12.00.

505 Harlow and Walthamstow. Withdrawn on Sundays with effect from 5.9.00. From 23.12.00. short workings between Water Lane and Old Harlow were withdrawn.

681 Thurrock area school service. Withdrawn after 20.10.00

Tesco Thurrock area contract, withdrawn with effect from 7.10.00.

Services 363 (Hammond Street to Tottenham Hale) and 517 (Upshire to Oakwood) are to be withdrawn in Spring 2001. These are to be replaced outside London by service 251 (Upshire to Hammond Street).

London Services 256 and 346 have recently been placed out for tender from 09/01.

London Transit are a recently formed operator, based in Hertford. They have at least two Dennis Darts N5 BLU, ex Blue Bus Horwich and S782 RNE, thought to be a dealer loan.

NORTH ESSEX BUS SCENE

Hedingham Omnibuses

Vehicles In

Fleet No.	Registration No.	Details
L316	FWL 778Y	Leyland Olympian H77F ECW
L317	FWL 781Y (Both ex Oxford Bus).	Leyland Olympian H77F ECW

Vehicle Repaints

L236	CJH 143V	Bristol VRT, ECW. This became necessary following accident damage to roof.
L153	D345 WPE	Ford Transit 190/Carlyle, (partial repaint only)

Service Revisions

C2	Withdrawn after 02/12/00. Covered until 30/12/00 by First Eastern National.
600	Walton to Colchester; withdrawn after 04/11/00.
91A	Tiptree to Kelvedon via Inworth introduced schooldays from 04/10/00.
331/32	Gt. Bardfield to Braintree; revised timetable from 20/11/00.
95	Revised timetable from 20/11/00.

Vehicle Notes

L207	L207 RNO	Volvo B6/Alexander Dash;confirmed as B40F
L303/304	L67/L68 UNG	Volvo B6/Alexander; both confirmed as B38F
L308	L73 UNG	Vovo B6/Alexander. Confirmed as B38F.

First Eastern National

Currently observed in the Clacton depot being broken up and awaiting disposal are:-

804	F804 RHK	First Capital Mercedes Midi.
9016	XYK 761T	Thamesway Bedford ex training vehicle.
384	H395 OHK	Mercedes 709D.
3222	BEP 963V	Bristol VRT, ECW.
	DWU 298T	First Thamesway Bristol VRT, ECW.
4029	FUM 497Y	Leyland Olympian, ECW.
901	ULS 101X	First Edinburgh Leyland Olympian, ECW.
3220	WTH 949T	Bristol VRT, ECW.
3106	UAR 596W	Bristol VRT, ECW.
1916	JHJ 142V	Leyland National.

Malcomn's Bus Service

A new half hourly Saturday bus service has commenced in Clacton. It is a circular route starting at Holland Haven and then travelling via Brighton Road, York Road, Roaring Donkey, Holland Park School, Railway Station, Tescos Station Road, Tower Road, Hospital, Marine Parade West, Marine Parade East, Kings Parade and back to Holland Haven. The service costs 60p single and £1.00 return for adults and 60p Flat Fare for OAP's. It is further advertised as a vintage bus service offering an array of different vehicles. Being used up until Saturday 6th January is ex Fowlers Leyland Atlantean, Registration number XPG 184T. It is believed that a Leyland National will take over the following week.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

ACS MINIBUS TENDRING This minibus operator ceased operations during mid-2000.
AIRPORT EXPRESS SOUTHEND This mainly minibus operator ceased operations during mid-2000.
A&M COURIERS THUNDERSLEY New here, but only recently reported is W67 NTG a LDV Pilot.
AMBER RAYLEIGH Volvo/Van Hool G948 RHI1 has been reregistered DKZ 7319. Bedford YMT/Plaxton VJA 661S is being used for spares.
APT RAYLEIGH Have acquired Leyland Olympian/ECW ARP 619X, NIL 4223 (G828 YJF) a Bova Futura and E62 UKL a Mercedes/Reeve Burgess.
BARKER ROYDON Recent additions are Duple 425's CIB 347 (D35 BRS, PSU 626, D108 XSS) and PJI 1244 (C646 CAP, 420 DCD, C716 NYJ); Leyland Tiger/Plaxton B47 DWE (NIB 5232, B47 DWE) this has been reregistered SJI 9334; Ford Transit D350 NSU and Metrorider F122 YVP. Metrorider E133 SNY is also acquired but for use as spares/tea room. Neoplan IUI 6718 (C791 PEM, SIW 1937, C791 PEM) is now unlicensed.
BJS GREAT WAKERING A recent acquisition is BAZ 7360 (G860 RNC) a Volvo B10M/Van Hool. It replaces sold DAF/Berkhof D215 YHK. A new vehicle is X476 DAB a Mercedes 711D/?.
BRANDON BLACKMORE END Recently acquired is N757 JLW (N6 RDC) a Scania/Irizar. It was re-registered 625 DAO on arrival here.
BURTONS HAVERHILL Commenced operation of service X38 to replace the former Associated Coachways (Biss) service. A revised timetable from 6.10.00 was introduced. It is now 0625 (M-F) via the M11 or 0925 (Sat) via Romford ex Haverhill. Return is 1700 from Victoria (M-F) or Marble Arch (Sat)
CEDRIC WIVENHOE Bova Futura M8 CED has been sold. It is replaced by a Setra W8 CED.
CHARIOTS STANFORD-LE-HOPE Not previously reported is that Bristol VR/E Lancs ABD 75X (new to Northampton, but spent some time with EN) is now a roadside cafe at Longmoor Camp, Bordon, Hampshire. Former London Metrobus GYE 412W has been acquired. A further Dennis Javelin/Caetano here is N584 GBW.
CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS DAF/Van Hool APT 42S (new as OGE 8Y) has been acquired from APT, Rayleigh and reregistered RJI 6621.
C&I COACHLINES HIGHWOOD Have acquired P120 KNO an Iveco/Beulas from Crusader Coaches, Clacton.
CLINTONA BRENTWOOD Service 261 (Blackmore to Brentwood) will be operated commercially from 2.1.01. This is thought to be this operators first commercial bus service. A number of ECC tendered services having been run for some years. Not previously mentioned in this column is that Saturday services on 389 which had been operated by Town & Country (Basildon to Stanford-le-Hope) and Arrive EH&E (Stanford-le-Hope to Aveley) passed to Clintona from 9.9.00. A revised timetable being introduced from 7.11.00.
COUNTY COACHES BRENTWOOD Bedford/Plaxton 2629 RU (new as FDU 2T) has been reregistered. this plate is now on a service vehicle. Toyota/Caetano NIW 1637 has been reacquired from LeeRoy, Brentwood.
COTTAGES GUEST HOUSE BATTLESBRIDGE No longer operate a minibus as a PCV.
DON DUNMOW Dennis Javelin/Duple E41 SBO has been sold. Acquired is Dennis Javelin/Caetano N425 FDH (1223 PL, N2 VES, N570 AWJ). Vehicles sold for scrap, are accident damaged Toyota/Caetano F337 JTN and Atlantean/Roe HDX 907N.
FIRST CAPITAL Service 510 (Marks Gate to Lakeside) was withdrawn after 30.12.00.
FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE Bristol VR/ECW FKM 877V and GGM 109W have been acquired. Sister MFN 44R has been sold.

FLORIDA COACHES HALSTEAD Have sold Metroliner PJI 9142 (B606 LSO)

FORD ALTHORNE Mercedes 609D/Scott conversion H830 YGA sold in mid-2000 has been reported just down the road with either Brians, Maylandsea or Whent, Mayland. Which is correct please?

FREELANCE COACH TRAVEL WESTCLIFF Ford Transit/Dormobile BKO 284Y has been acquired.

GALE HARLOW This operator is now also acting as a dealer in the disposal of a number of ex Arriva East Herts and Essex vehicles. Recent vehicles shown as acquired here, are therefore likely to have been in a dealer only capacity.

GARDNER WIDFORD Mercedes/Optare F43 MGB (AJI 8353, F124 HFD) has been acquired.

GOING PLACES CRAYS HILL DAF400 G267 VJR has been sold to P&M Coaches, Shotgate.

GOLDEN BOY ROYDON Volvo/Van Hool F694 ACX has been acquired and reregistered C10 BOY.

GRAHAMS KELVEDON Van Hool T815 SIL 6705 (new as E108 GOO) has been sold to Stans, Great Totham.

HARRIS COACHES THURROCK Volvo/Plaxton M515 NCG (A7 EXC) has been sold.

HOWARD HALSTEAD Bedford YNT/Plaxton MPY 884W and BUT 46Y are delicensed at Rules, Boxford depot.

IMPERIAL RAINHAM This operator has commenced service 100 (Loughton-Buckhurst Hill via Debden) from 26.9.00. with a revised timetable introduced on 7.12.00 The fleet includes Metrobuses BYX 228V, BYX 239V, EYE 322V, GYE 433W, SND 108X, SND 116X. Titans CUL 214V, KYN 302X and KYV 379V. Star is Scania Metropolitan KJD 271P. The Metrobuses are normally on 100, the remainder are used on rail replacement and contract work.

KINGSTONS BENFLEET Acquired from Ensigns, is former Reading Metrobus B149 EDP.

KIRBY RAYLEIGH A recent addition here is Setra S250 N206 PUL.

KNIGHTS GREAT BRAXTED Further to EBN 439, S466 OEW is a LDV Convoy.

LEOS MINIBUSES HARLOW This minibus operator ceased operations during mid-2000.

LODGE HIGH EASTER D519 FYL a Fiat/Robin Hood is now unlicensed.

MALCOLMS BLUE BUS SERVICES Service 134 (Holland-on-Sea to Clacton) was revised to operate every Saturday from 2.12.00. Service 9 (Hythe to Highwoods) was withdrawn with effect from 1.12.00.

MCINTYRE HARLOW Ford Transit M675 BLX has been acquired.

NCS NEWPORT Further Renault Traffics in stock are J787 BJN, L844 RHJ, M708 AVW, M526 AHJ, M48 AVX, M607 NPH. Also here are LDAF 200 M765 LYL and LDV Convoy N475 WOD.

NELSONS WICKFORD Acquired from Cardiff City are G601/3-5/7 GTX Scania/Alexander double deckers. They are to replace Bristol VR's. Service 37 (South Woodham town) had a revised timetable from 31.10.00. The Brentwood schools services numbered 41-50 had a revised timetable introduced from 4.1.01.

PIONEER TRAVEL CLACTON Optare CityPacer LIL 7960 (E218 PWY) has been sold to a Colchester scrap dealer.

RELIANCE BENFLEET Have acquired a further Dennis javelin/Berkhof P242 KJM.

S&M BENFLEET Fleetline KUC 154P has been sold. A further Metrobus is WYW 39T. Titan A68 THX was acquired when Kingsmaster, Benfleet ceased operations.

SEYMOUR HARLOW Have acquired Duple 425 E205 EPB.

SM TRAVEL A recent addition is H35 DGD a Mercedes 811D/Dormobile via Gale, Harlow (dealer).

STANS GREAT TOTHAM Bedford/Plaxton PBC 648W is a recent addition.

STEPHENSONS ROCHFORD Leyland Olympian/ECW TSO 13X has been acquired. Also here and in dealer stock are AEC Routemaster VLT 102, Olympian/Alexander YSO 41Y, Leyland Titan/Leyland A892 SYE, Leyland Lynx E447 FWV.
STORT VALLEY STANSTED Have sold Setra S250 coaches P500/600/700/800/900 TCC and Dennis Javelin/Plaxton R129 XWF.
TOWN & COUNTRY PURFLEET Service 101 (Basildon-Orsett) withdrawn after operation on 7.10.00.
VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN Bedford YNV/Duple C141 KGJ has been sold.
WALDEN TRAVEL SAFFRON WALDEN Acquired is P553 KSD a Dennis Javelin/Plaxton. It replaces DAF/Duple E599 LVH
WARD ARLESFORD JUI 4996 (B623 DDW) a Bedford YNT/Plaxton has been sold.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Recent items of publicity are timetable leaflets for service 90 dated 14.11.00 and 301 dated 4.9.00

LODGE HIGH EASTER (SCANIA SALES)

The following were noted here in early September:-

OXI 2381 (B567 AHD) DAF/Plaxton ex Kingsmaster, Benfleet.
RJI 2710 (E506 BVU0 DAF/Van Hool ex Kingsmaster, Benfleet.
G484 KBD a LAG integral ex Andrews, Watford
K261 FUV a Dennis Javelin/Plaxton ex Reliance, Benfleet
L705 CNR DAF/Caetano ex unknown operator
M572 DSJ (ex LSK 875) a Volvo/Jonckhree ex Ellis, Wembley Park
N844 DKU a Scania/Irizar ex Cunningham, Corringham
P988 HWF a Dennis Javelin/Neoplan ex Budden, Romsey
unreg a new Scania/Irizar

ESSEX BUSES - SERVICE VEHICLES

The following buses and coaches are in the service fleet, as at 12/00:-

1924	JHJ 150V	Leyland National		Driver Trainer	HO
9001	AJN 825	Bristol K5G	ECW	Preserved	BN
9017	YYL 794T	Bedford YLQ	Duple	Driver Trainer	BN
9020	VIB 9308	Bedford YMT	Plaxton	Driver Trainer	HO
9021	CRW 515T	Bedford YMT	Plaxton	Driver Trainer	HO
9023	NJU 1W	Bedford YMT	Plaxton	Driver Trainer	HO
9026	H396 OHK	Mercedes 709D	Reeve Burgess	Driver Trainer	HO
9028	H397 OHK	Mercedes 709D	Reeve Burgess	Publicity Van	BN
9029	H380 OHK	Mercedes 709D	Reeve Burgess	Driver Trainer	BN
9030	H606 OVW	Mercedes 709D	Reeve Burgess	Driver Trainer	BN
9411	FTO 549V	Bedford YMT	Plaxton	Driver Trainer	BN

ESSEX BUSES ON LINE

Untangling the Worldwide Web

The rapid rise in Internet use has led to lots of information being readily available on bus and coach services.

With this in mind we're launching Essex buses on line to bring you regular news about web sites featuring the counties buses

The Operators

The two major Essex operators both now have web sites. First Eastern National **(www.firsteastennational.co.uk)** and First Thamesway **(www.firstthamesway.co.uk)** are in First corporate style and are quite basic at the moment. The news sections have recently been updated for the first time in four months and hopefully the potential of these sites can be realised.

North Essex independent Hedingham Buses **(www.hedingham.co.uk)** revamped their web pages in May but unfortunately there's been no update since then. Again, it would be nice to see regular updates.

Arriva the Shires and Essex don't yet have an official web page but they do sponsor Harlowride **(www.harlowride.co.uk).** As the name suggests it focuses on all bus services in the Harlow area .The sites been running for sometime now and it's a good place to find the latest service changes as it's updated regularly.

The Unofficial Line

It's not just the operators who have pages on the net .For a look at bus services in Southend, try S.R 's Southend bus page. **(www.argonet.co.uk/users/stevenr/).** The site features bus news, a bus diary and a large selection of photos.

The Essex bus e-group **(www.egroups.com /essex-buses)** allows you to post your own news and observations on the counties bus scene. You can also share your news and observations with others and ask questions.

The web- master of the Essex bus e group is also setting up a site giving more detailed info on the First Essex fleets **(www.etbuses.com)**– it's early days but it looks promising. A range of photos, fleet lists and news is promised and there's details of how to join the Essex Bus Enthusiast Group, so that must be a good thing!

Finally for this month to the west of the county where Jonathan Cush has a site focusing on services in the bishops stortford area. There's plenty of news, a bus diary and some local shots. **(www.zyworld.com/stortbusnews).**

Next month we'll review some of the more specialist sites on the net, including one dedicated to bus blinds. Don't forget to email us with your suggestions on which sites to feature. For a roundup of Bus sites nationwide read Richard Delahoy's 'Buses on the net ' in buses magazine. See **(www.showbus.co.uk)** for links to sites reviewed.

PUBLICITY ISSUED DURING 2000 BY SMALLER OPERATORS IN ESSEX (COMPILED BY IAN TAYLOR)

Once again I am pleased to present a list of timetables and leaflets known to have been issued during the past year by operators in Essex which are not part of the First Bus, Arriva or National Express groups. In addition to receiving a good response from most operators, I am also grateful to a member in Colchester for supplying a number of interesting items which I had missed in my 1998/99 reviews; all of which have been included in the notes which follow. As always, I would be pleased to hear of any additional items, issued during 2000, which have not been recorded in this article.

Amos

A hand-written timetable was received during March 2000 in response to my enquiry about the service to Sudbury. For the record the times given were:
Tuesdays Belchamp St Paul dep. 1000 via Pentlow, Foxearth. Return from Sudbury at 1200.
Thursdays Ovington dep. 1225 via Belchamp St Paul, Belchamp Otten, Borley. Return at 1430.
Saturdays Ovington dep. 0935 via Tilbury, Yeldhams, Belchamp St Paul, Pentlow, Foxearth. Return from Sudbury at 1215.

Blue Triangle

A standard LBSL A5 size timetable leaflet was issued 29.7.00 announcing the re-numbering of route 265 to 565.

Burtons Coaches

An A5 size undated leaflet was issued following the take-over of service X38 (Haverhill to London) during October. The leaflet gave details of the forthcoming fares revision in January 2001 however.

Buzz Co-operative

A 12 page booklet entitled "Excursions & Timetables 2000" was issued in January which gave full timetables for services B1,B6,B11,B31. Service B4 was not included in the booklet although an A5 sized yellow leaflet dated 6.12.99 was available. This was superseded by a second leaflet dated 3.4.00 which included route B14 as well.

Carters Coach Services

A4 size timetable leaflets were produced for the changes of 2.5.00 and 4.9.00 by photocopying the relevant pages of the Suffolk County Council booklets with the addition of company name, address and telephone number.

Chambers

A revised timetable leaflet was issued dated 5.4.00 which included all services. Going back to 1999 an edition dated 4.1.99 has only recently come to light.

Chariots of Essex

A revised Village Link leaflet for services 14/15 was produced by Essex CC for the revisions of 4.9.00.

Clintona

Blue A5 size leaflets were produced by Essex CC for services 71/72 dated 1.4.00 and for service 261 dated 12.8.00.

Essexpress

New timetable leaflets, printed black on white, were issued for the 191/92/93 and 196-199 group of services dated 4.1.00. The leaflets gave full names, addresses and telephone numbers for Fargo Coachlines and Windmill Coaches. Faretables were produced for the two groups of services dated 28.2.00. A glossy slimline leaflet was produced for all services (191-93/95-99) showing times and

fares dated 3.4.00. In addition a small, undated, card was also produced giving a summary of services from Sudbury, Halstead, Braintree, Rayne, Dunmow and Takeley but without fares information. This was by far the most upmarket publicity ever produced for these commuter services. By July Fargo had passed their participation in the services to Biss Coaches who were continuing to issue the two items produced for the 3rd April changes despite a couple of services having been withdrawn by this stage.

Fords Coaches
An A5 size leaflet was produced by Essex CC for Malbus route 1 following it's severe reduction from 4.5.00.

Four Counties Buses
A blue A5 size leaflet was issued by Essex CC dated 4.9.00 giving the revised timetable for service 313.

Gatwick Flyer
Summer timetable leaflets covered the period 1.5.00 to 31.10.00 identical to the style of previous years. The Winter editions are valid from 1.11.00 to 30.4.01.

Halstead Travel
Going back to 1998 an undated single sided A5 size leaflet was issued for service 88H which started on 1.10.98 although it took me until May 2000 to obtain one! A very similar leaflet was prepared following minor changes to the service on 6.9.00.

Harris Bus
Three leaflets issued during 1999 did not come to light until early in 2000. A blue leaflet for services 383/384 was issued on 20.2.99 whilst another issue for the 383 appeared in June 1999 following revisions. There was also a leaflet produced for the "new improved service" on routes L1/L1X from 27.2.99.

Hedingham Omnibuses
Going back to 1999 the Tollesbury Area Bus Guide was re-issued dated 1.3.99 in similar style to previous editions and included timetables for services 50,90,91,95,95A. It consisted of 8 pages printed in black on cream paper with a photograph of L243 (M262 KWK) on the cover. A Clacton Area Bus Guide appeared dated 4.10.99 with a colour photo of L301 (S376 MVP) on the cover and timetables for services 49,105,107,130,131,134,135,600 inside. A street plan of Clacton appeared in the centre spread with the routes of services 130/31/34/35 superimposed in four colours. Unfortunately a misprint in an advertisement for coach hire gave the STD code for Bath rather than for Clacton! A leaflet was available separately showing a timetable for the 130 which included a route diagram on the reverse. Revised Tollesbury Bus Guides also appeared dated 3.4.00, 14.8.00 and 6.10.00; the covers featured L301 on service 130 at Clacton! A pink A5 size leaflet was produced by Essex CC for services 73/73A dated 4.9.00 whilst Village Link service 16 was also treated to Essex CC leaflets dated 3.4.00 and 4.9.00. The company issued a green A5 size leaflet for services 600/602 dated Summer 2000.

Imperial Bus Company
A timetable leaflet was produced following the introduction of service 100 in the Autumn together with one entitled "Improved Timetable For Route 100 Starting 7th December". I visited the Loughton and Debden areas on Saturday 2nd December and the service definitely was not operating on this day. The company later confirmed by telephone that the Saturday service had been withdrawn and that 2.12.00 was the first day that the Saturday service had not run. (Please note that this is one week earlier than the date given by Essex CC).

Lodge
An A4 size timetable sheet was issued giving details of the service revision from 17.3.00.

London Borough of Havering

Timetables for services H1-H6 were re-issued during 2000 to give prominence to the fact that the Havering Connect Community Bus was the "proud winner of the Havering Association for people with disabilities - Disability Awareness Award 1999 - for recognising the ability in disability". The H4 leaflet announced that Tesco sponsor all of the Havering Connect bus services whilst the H1 and H2 have the New Horizons for Harold Hill logo on the top right corner. Local businesses can also now advertise on the timetable leaflets for £40 per year; "Flowergirl" of Hilldene Avenue being the first taker.

Malcolm's Bus Service

An A4 size leaflet consisting of photocopied typescript was headed "Important Notice, Service M49". It listed only departure times from St Andrews Avenue, Harwich Road and return times from Highwoods. The flat fare of 70p for all passengers was also mentioned. Although a second photocopied A4 sheet gave a full timetable in typescript, the operator's name, telephone number and fares information were all produced using a computer. It is odd to see two quite different forms of lettering appearing on the same leaflet! Finally a third A4 sheet advised that the Talbot Tri-Axle minibus used on the service was available for private hire. The names "Alder Bus", "Mobility Bus Service" and "Routemaster Clacton" all appeared as part of the heading.

A colleague, living in the Highwoods area, advises me that although the publicity seems to indicate that the service commenced on Wednesday 23rd August 2000, it is possible that it started on Monday 21st. It certainly did not start on 9th August 2000 as implied by the Essex CC timetable for North Essex dated 29th October 2000. Additionally, Malcolm numbered the service 49, not 9 as per the Essex CC book, and furthermore it was withdrawn after operation on 29th September 2000. This date was verbally advised to my colleague by the operator on 27th September. Consequently the service was not operating during the currency of the Essex CC book effective from 29th October.

A cream A5 size leaflet was issued for service M134 dated 7.11.00. In addition to a full timetable and fares information, the leaflet also included a photograph of GRY 60D an ex-Leicester City Leyland, together with smaller photographs of six vintage buses belonging to Eastern Counties, Peterborough Electric Traction Co Ltd and Ortona Motor Co Ltd!

MV Explorer 12

A blue on white A5 size leaflet was issued giving times and fares for the Harwich to Felixstowe/Shotley ferry service which operated between 17.6.00 and 30.9.00. Essex CC also issued a green amendment slip with the times on, for insertion into the Sunday Travel Guide.

Nelsons

Essex CC leaflets were produced during the year on yellow paper for services 21 (4.1.00) and 37 (29.12.99). Issues for services 221/222 (30.5.00) and 224 (13.6.00) appeared on orange paper, whilst white paper was used for services 21 (30.10.00) and 41-46 (30.10.00).

Royal Mail

A slimline timetable booklet was issued early in the year coded "1/2000" which gave full details of all Postbus services in Southern England. A revised timetable for the Saffron Walden Postbus was issued 12.6.00 on an A4 size sheet of paper bearing the Royal Mail cruciform on the top right hand corner.

Trevor Taylor Marine

A similar leaflet to that provided in 1999 was issued for 2000 which included times and fares for the ferry service from Burnham On Crouch to Wallasea Island.

Town & Country Buses

Two undated leaflets were issued for the changes to routes 324 and 348 which occurred on 17.1.00. They were A5 size with red printing on cream paper. Similar leaflets were issued for the changes of 8.5.00 but the date was included this time!

Viceroy
Essex CC produced timetable leaflets were distributed following revisions to services 11 (from 25.7.00 on blue paper), 14/34 (from 31.7.00 also on blue paper) and 59/590 (from 2.9.00 on pink paper).

Whippet Coaches
A green and white slimline leaflet was produced entitled "Go Whippet Coastal Services 2000". Presumably there have been similar leaflets produced in previous years although this is the first one I've seen. Times and fares were included for services A (Great Yarmouth), B (Eastbourne), C (Hunstanton), D (Felixstowe), E (Clacton) and F (Southend).

New! TAYLOR'S GUIDE TO BUS MAPS New!

Compiled by Essex Bus News Contributor Ian Taylor

25 A4 pages listing the dozens of bus route maps currently available from local authorities and bus operators nationwide.

Full contact addresses, phones numbers & brief descriptions of The maps - It's ideal for collectors !

If you've missed "on the map" in BUSES magazine then this is the publication for you! - Only £3 Inc p&p

Send a cheque / postal order for £3, payable to Ian Taylor 39 Hollingdean Road Brighton BN2 4AA

BRISTOL SC to LH

The recent auction held by Hedingham Omnibuses of redundant buses and coaches included two of the four Bristol LH6L Eastern Coachwork B43F bodies, LI12/3S (UVX5/6S), acquired from Eastern National in 1982 (1101-1102)

These two buses have been acquired by Thomas (Silver Star) of Upper Llandwrog near Caernarvon, North Wales, who is no newcomer to Eastern National vehicles. In July 1964 Bristol SC ECW B35F 440 (610JPU) went to North Wales with Thomas, followed in 1967 by 450-2 (9574/6F), these were acquired from K W .of Daventry. A fourth SC that had been sold to Cumberland Motor Services by Eastern National in January 1964, this was EN 436 (606JPU), joined the fleet. Also, in March 1978 Silver Star were operating Eastern National via National Travel (South East) 408 (YHK725F) Bristol RELH6G Eastern Coachworks C47F.]

Ten Years Ago

Chris Stewart turns back the clock to January 1991 and the invasion of mini buses in Southend .....

Thamesway was created just over ten years ago (on 28 July 1990) with depots at Basildon, Brentwood, Ponders End, Walthamstow, Hadleigh and Southend.
January 1991 saw the start of the Southend 'bus war', the shape of things to come being highlighted by the delivery of 47 Mercedes 709's (307-356) over Christmas and New Year. Basildon still had 44 Leyland Nationals plus mobility bus 2200, 9 Leyland Lynx and 3 Bristol VR's. Brentwood had 27 minibuses (including the 193 allocation), 15 Nationals and four double-deckers (one VR and 3 Olympians) and it was to be another 5 years before that depot closed.
The new MB 709's were split between Hadleigh and Southend. The minibuses were augmented by 17 Ford Transits from Badgerline and Bristol Citybus , but there were still 10 LN's and 4 Olympians at SD with another 18 Nationals, 7 Lynx and two Olympians at HH. Ponders End had 12 minibuses and 23 double-deckers (19 of them VR's, the remainder being the H-reg Olympians 1001-4) while the remainder of Thamesway's fleet was allocated to Walthamstow in the form of 12 mini/midibuses, 13 Nationals and 13 VR's. This gave a total of 261 vehicles, compared to today's 178 operating from just two main depots (HH and BN) together with the much smaller one at Romford.
Much of the reduction stems from the fact that London Transport operations are now largely in the hands of sister company First Capital (2000 having seen First Thamesway's final retreat from Walthamstow with the withdrawal of the 2A, 251 and 551) but in 1991 creation of FirstGroup was still a long way off.
The only survivors from the Thamesway fleet of ten years ago are a handful of Merc 709's , Lynx 1400/4-6/9-12/7-24 and VRT 3113 (then at Ponders End); the Dennis marque had yet to appear, let alone the low-floor version in corporate livery.
The old-established service 251 still ran Southend – Walthamstow but the Southend - King's Cross 400 was withdrawn in January 1991 in favour of the extended service 2.
Just as the Southend 'bus war' was starting, it was unbelievable to have thought of the possibility of (First) Thamesway Volvo coaches running in Green Line livery on a joint service with the successor to Southend Transport.

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